



D.C. Office of Revenue Analysis Briefing Document *Number: 2013-6* *Date: June 2013*

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**From 1990 to 2013, federal civilian jobs fell 12.9% in the US and 6.8% in DC—
but rose 26.7% in DC’s suburbs**

***In the past 2 years, as sequestration approached, DC lost federal jobs at a
faster rate (3.9%) than its suburbs (-0.6%) or the US (-3.4%)***

Tracking federal civilian employment from 1990 to 2013 shows notable changes in both the number and location of federal jobs. Overall, for the 23-year period, federal employment fell in the US as a whole and rose in the DC metropolitan area. Most of the regional employment gains have, however, been in the suburbs rather than in the District of Columbia. In the past two years, with sequestration approaching, federal employment has fallen in the suburbs, but at a much slower rate than in DC or the US as a whole.

In April 1990 there were 3,176,000 federal civilian employees working throughout the United States. By April 2013 the number of federal workers had dropped by 410,000 (12.9%) to 2,766,000. This change in federal employment was not uniform. Over the course of the 23 years federal employment in the Washington metropolitan area actually grew by 21,000 (5.9%), and the portion of all federal workers located in the region increased from 11.1% to 13.5%.

The net gain in federal jobs for the region occurred entirely in the Washington DC suburbs, which grew by 35,600 jobs (26.7%). The District of Columbia lost 14,800 jobs. The District’s rate of decline in federal jobs was, however, only about half that for the US as a whole—6.8% versus 12.9%. Consequently, the share of all federal jobs located in DC also rose over the period— from 6.7% in 1990 to 7.4% in 2013.

The story of federal employment from 1990 to 2013 is not fully told by comparing the last year with the first, for there is not a smooth trajectory of change over that period. For example, most of the federal job cuts were from 1990 to 2001 (a period that includes the cutbacks that helped trigger DC’s Control Board period). Since then, a period that includes 9/11, the Great Recession, and the sequester debates, federal employment has grown, especially in the Washington area (and especially in the suburbs). *(continued on p. 2)*

Federal civilian employment in the US, Washington metro area, DC, and the DC suburbs: 1990 to 2013

Year	US	Metro area	DC	Suburbs
1990	3,176,000	352,367	218,733	133,633
2013	2,765,667	373,233	203,967	169,267
change	-410,333	20,867	-14,767	35,633
% ch	-12.9	5.9	-6.8	26.7

Source: BLS. Data are 3-month average for April of year shown.

This briefing document was prepared by Stephen Swaim, DC Office of Revenue Analysis.

This brief first appeared in the June 2013 DC Economic and Revenue Trends. District of Columbia briefing documents are prepared by the Office of Revenue Analysis, which is part of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia government. The purpose of these documents is to make information available that is not of a policy nature. See also District of Columbia Economic and Revenue Trends and Economic Indicators issued monthly by the D.C. Office of the Chief Financial Officer ([www.cfo.dc.gov/Economy and Revenue](http://www.cfo.dc.gov/Economy%20and%20Revenue)).

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Federal job trends, continued from p.1

Changes in federal civilian employment from 1990 to 2013 are summarized in two tables which follow.

- From 1990 to 2001 federal jobs in the US declined in 8 of the 11 years, a drop of 435,700 (13.7%). DC declined at an even faster rate, losing 38,200 jobs, 17.5% of its total. On the other hand, the DC suburbs added 6,600 jobs (4.9%).
- From 2001 to 2013 federal employment nationally declined in 7 of the 12 years, but there was an overall net growth of 25,300 (0.9%). The increase in the Washington metropolitan area—52,500—was more than twice that of the US as a whole. DC gained 23,400, representing a 13.0% increase and about 45% of the metro total. The suburbs grew by 20.7%.

Within the 2001 to 2013 period, there are three distinct sub-periods: (1) 9/11 and its aftermath, where the metro area grew (split almost evenly between DC and the suburbs) but the US continued to decline. (2) The US Great Recession, where the US grew but DC and the metro area grew even faster. (3) The two most recent years, where deficit reduction actions have cut federal employment. The percent reduction in DC (3.9%) is greater than that in either the US (3.4%) or the suburbs (0.6%). This third sub-period ends at a time when spending cuts mandated by the federal sequester were just beginning to be implemented—with effects on federal employment yet to be determined.

—Stephen Swaim, DC Office of Revenue Analysis

Change in federal civilian employment in the US, the Washington metro area, DC, and the DC suburbs: (1) 1990 to 2001, and (2) 2001 to 2013

Period	Amount of change				% change			
	US	Metro area	DC	Suburbs	US	Metro area	DC	Suburbs
1990 to 2001	-435,667	-31,633	-38,200	6,567	-13.7	-9.0	-17.5	4.9
2001 to 2013	25,333	52,500	23,433	29,067	0.9	16.4	13.0	20.7

Source: BLS. Data are 3-month moving average for the month of April in each year shown. Data not seasonally adjusted

Change in federal civilian employment in the US, the Washington metro area, DC, and the DC suburbs: (1) 2001 to 2008, (2) 2008 to 2011, and (3) 2011 to 2013

Period	Amount of change				% change			
	US	Metro area	DC	Suburbs	US	Metro area	DC	Suburbs
2001 to 2008	-6,667	22,233	10,600	11,633	-0.2	6.9	5.9	8.3
2008 to 2011	129,000	39,500	21,033	18,467	4.7	11.5	11.0	12.2
2011 to 2013	-97,000	-9,233	-8,200	-1,033	-3.4	-2.4	-3.9	-0.6

Source: BLS. Data are 3-month moving average for the month of April in each year shown. Data not seasonally adjusted

Federal civilian employment in the US, the Washington metro area, DC, and the DC suburbs: 1990 to 2013

Year (April 3- mo avg)	Level ('000)				Amount of change from prior year ('000)				% of US total			% of metro area total	
	US	Metro	DC	Suburbs	US	Metro	DC	Suburbs	Metro	DC	Suburbs	DC	Suburbs
1990	3,176.00	352.37	218.73	133.63					11.1	6.9	4.2	62.1	37.9
1991	3,081.67	351.43	220.17	131.27	-94.33	-0.93	1.43	-2.37	11.4	7.1	4.3	62.6	37.4
1992	3,110.67	365.10	227.90	137.20	29.00	13.67	7.73	5.93	11.7	7.3	4.4	62.4	37.6
1993	3,067.33	366.50	230.60	135.90	-43.33	1.40	2.70	-1.30	11.9	7.5	4.4	62.9	37.1
1994	3,037.00	357.80	220.20	137.60	-30.33	-8.70	-10.40	1.70	11.8	7.3	4.5	61.5	38.5
1995	2,962.33	342.67	207.40	135.27	-74.67	-15.13	-12.80	-2.33	11.6	7.0	4.6	60.5	39.5
1996	2,895.00	331.17	197.87	133.30	-67.33	-11.50	-9.53	-1.97	11.4	6.8	4.6	59.7	40.3
1997	2,824.33	329.87	191.03	138.83	-70.67	-1.30	-6.83	5.53	11.7	6.8	4.9	57.9	42.1
1998	2,752.00	321.73	186.90	134.83	-72.33	-8.13	-4.13	-4.00	11.7	6.8	4.9	58.1	41.9
1999	2,765.33	322.33	182.03	140.30	13.33	0.60	-4.87	5.47	11.7	6.6	5.1	56.5	43.5
2000	2,849.00	324.63	182.73	141.90	83.67	2.30	0.70	1.60	11.4	6.4	5.0	56.3	43.7
2001	2,740.33	320.73	180.53	140.20	-108.67	-3.90	-2.20	-1.70	11.7	6.6	5.1	56.3	43.7
2002	2,740.33	329.53	190.67	138.87	0.00	8.80	10.13	-1.33	12.0	7.0	5.1	57.9	42.1
2003	2,768.00	333.77	192.17	141.60	27.67	4.23	1.50	2.73	12.1	6.9	5.1	57.6	42.4
2004	2,723.00	337.10	191.40	145.70	-45.00	3.33	-0.77	4.10	12.4	7.0	5.4	56.8	43.2
2005	2,716.67	337.97	192.57	145.40	-6.33	0.87	1.17	-0.30	12.4	7.1	5.4	57.0	43.0
2006	2,716.00	339.73	192.07	147.67	-0.67	1.77	-0.50	2.27	12.5	7.1	5.4	56.5	43.5
2007	2,714.33	338.97	189.13	149.83	-1.67	-0.77	-2.93	2.17	12.5	7.0	5.5	55.8	44.2
2008	2,733.67	342.97	191.13	151.83	19.33	4.00	2.00	2.00	12.5	7.0	5.6	55.7	44.3
2009	2,823.33	354.27	195.90	158.37	89.67	11.30	4.77	6.53	12.5	6.9	5.6	55.3	44.7
2010	2,912.67	372.10	206.33	165.77	89.33	17.83	10.43	7.40	12.8	7.1	5.7	55.5	44.5
2011	2,862.67	382.47	212.17	170.30	-50.00	10.37	5.83	4.53	13.4	7.4	5.9	55.5	44.5
2012	2,816.00	376.70	207.60	169.10	-46.67	-5.77	-4.57	-1.20	13.4	7.4	6.0	55.1	44.9
2013	2,765.67	373.23	203.97	169.27	-50.33	-3.47	-3.63	0.17	13.5	7.4	6.1	54.6	45.4

Source: BLS. Data are 3-month moving average for the month of April in each year shown. Data not seasonally adjusted.